United Nations CAC/COSP/WG.4/2018/L.1

Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption

Distr.: Limited
7 September 2018

Original: English

Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on the Prevention of Corruption
Ninth meeting
Vienna, 5–7 September

Draft report

I. Introduction

1. In its resolution 3/2, the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption decided to establish an interim open-ended intergovernmental working group to advise and assist the Conference in the implementation of its mandate on the prevention of corruption.

2. The Conference decided that the Working Group should perform the following functions:

(a) Assist the Conference in developing and accumulating knowledge in the area of prevention of corruption;

(b) Facilitate the exchange of information and experience among States on preventive measures and practices;

(c) Facilitate the collection, dissemination and promotion of best practices in corruption prevention;

(d) Assist the Conference in encouraging cooperation among all stakeholders and sectors of society in order to prevent corruption.

3. In its resolution 7/6, the Conference welcomed the work of the Working Group to facilitate the sharing of information between States parties and underlined the importance of the conclusions and recommendations of the Working Group at its meetings held in Vienna from 22 to 24 August 2016 and from 21 to 23 August 2017.

4. In its resolution 7/6, the Conference requested States parties to continue sharing information and requested the Secretariat, subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources, to continue its work as an international observatory, including by updating the thematic website of the Working Group with relevant information.

5. In its decision 7/1, the Conference requested the Secretariat to structure the provisional agendas of the subsidiary bodies established by the Conference in such a way as to avoid the duplication of discussions, while respecting their mandates.

6. In its resolution 7/5, entitled "Promoting preventive measures against corruption", the Conference decided that the Working Group should include as the topic for 2018 the use and effectiveness of asset declaration systems and conflicts of

Please recycle

interest. The topics for discussion at the ninth intersessional meeting of the Working Group, to be held in Vienna from 5 to 7 September 2018, will therefore be:

(a) Preventing and managing conflicts of interest (art. 7, para. 4 of the United Nations Convention against Corruption); and

(b) Asset and interest disclosure systems (art. 8, para. 5 of the United Nations Convention against Corruption).

II. Organization of the meeting

A. Opening of the meeting

7. The Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on the Prevention of Corruption held its ninth meeting in Vienna from 5 to 7 September 2018. The meetings of the Working Group were chaired by the Vice-President of the Conference of the States Parties, Vivian N. R. Okeke (Nigeria).

8. In opening the meeting, the Vice-President recalled 3/2, 7/5, and 7/6. She highlighted the importance of the meeting's interactive discussions and sharing of experiences in the prevention of corruption and introduced the thematic discussions on conflicts of interest and asset and interest disclosure systems.

9. The Secretariat underscored the importance of a comprehensive approach to action against corruption, emphasizing that the provisions of chapter II are essential to promoting transparency, integrity, good governance and education. The Secretariat further noted that the Seventh Sessions of the Conference of the States Parties, has emphatically reiterated the importance of these principles. It was noted that the Working Group, since its first meeting in 2010, had provided States with the opportunity to share good practices, lessons learned and expertise. The Secretariat further noted that the knowledge gathered through the Working Group had proved to be invaluable to national experts in both reviewing their own countries' implementation of the Convention and serving as reviewing experts in the second cycle of the Implementation Review Mechanism.

10. The Secretariat also introduced the documents of the meeting. The background papers on conflicts of interest (CAC/COSP/WG.4/2018/2) and on the use and effectiveness of asset declaration systems (CAC/COSP/WG.4/2018/3) had been prepared on the basis of the responses submitted by States following a request by the Secretariat for information. Those reports reflected the information received as at 18 June 2018 from 44 States. An additional 7 submissions were received after that date. With the agreement of the States concerned all of the submissions received had been made available on both the official website for this meeting of the group[1] and on the thematic website[2] of the Working Group.

B. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

11. On 6 September, the Working Group adopted the following agenda:

1. Organizational matters:

(a) Opening of the meeting;

(b) Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.

[1] http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/corruption/WG-Prevention/session9.html.

[2] http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/corruption/WG-Prevention/thematic-compilation-prevention.html.

2. Implementation of Conference resolutions 7/5, entitled "Promoting preventive measures against corruption" and 7/6, entitled "Follow-up to the Marrakech declaration on the prevention of corruption":

   (a) Preventing and managing conflicts of interest (art. 7, para. 4 of the United Nations Convention against Corruption);

   (b) Asset and interest disclosure (art. 8, para. 5 of the United Nations Convention against Corruption).

3. Recommendations and future priorities.

4. Adoption of the report.

C. Attendance

12. The following States parties to the Convention were represented at the meeting of the Working Group: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belgium, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Canada, Chile, China, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Finland, France, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Honduras, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libya, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malaysia, Malta, Mexico, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, New Zealand, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, South Sudan, Spain, Sri Lanka, State of Palestine, Sudan, Switzerland, Thailand, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen and Zimbabwe.

13. The European Union, a regional economic integration organization that is a party to the Convention, was represented at the meeting.

14. The following Secretariat units, funds and programmes and specialized agencies were represented by observers: United Nations Development Programme.

15. The following intergovernmental organizations were also represented: Cooperation Council of the Arab States of the Gulf, General Secretariat of the Council of the European Union, Council of Europe, Group of States against Corruption (GRECO), International Anti-Corruption Academy, International Criminal Police Organization, International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance, Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, Regional Anti-Corruption Initiative, World Customs Organization.